

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 233475
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 L-03 INR-07 IO-14 MED-03
NSAE-00 PA-02 DHA-05 CA-01 OES-07 PRS-01 CIAE-00
HEW-06 AID-05 FDRE-00 DODE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
USIE-00 /072 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:WBODDE:PAP
APPROVED BY EA/ANP:EHURWITZ
INTERIOR:JBERG
MED:DR.JKORCAK

-----073001 282107Z /73

O 282000Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO HICOMTERPACIS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 233475

STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY GOVERNMENT OF GILBERT ISLANDS
CONCERNING CHOLERA

1. THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS REQUESTED US TO
TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT CONCERNING CHOLERA
IN THE GILBERT ISLANDS TO THE TTPI. STATEMENT BEGINS:

QUOTE DURING THE EARLY DAYS OF SEPTEMBER SEVERAL
CASES OF UNUSUALLY SEVERE DIARRHOEA ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL
IN TARAWA RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF CHOLERA. BY THURSDAY
8 SEPTEMBER CLINICAL INDICATIONS AND THE RESULTS OF
LABORATORY TESTS WERE SUFFICIENT FOR THE MINISTRY OF
HEALTH TO NOTIFY A CHOLERA EPIDEMIC. INTENSIVE PREVENTIVE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 233475

MEASURES WERE IMMEDIATELY TAKEN. ON TENTH SEPTEMBER
THE DIAGNOSIS WAS CONFIRMED AND VIBRIO CHOLERAEL FOR
INABA IDENTIFIED. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT CHOLERA
HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE GILBERT ISLANDS.

THE CENTRE OF THE EPIDEMIC HAS BEEN SOUTH TARAWA
THE CAPITAL OF THE GILBERT ISLANDS WHERE OVER A QUARTER

OF THE POPULATION LIVES. THE PIPED WATER SUPPLY
WAS CONTAMINATED WHICH MAY HAVE ACCOUNTED FOR THE

EXPLOSIVE NATURE OF THE EPIDEMIC WHICH REACHED A PEAK
ON 13 SEPTEMBER.

THE EPIDEMIC SPREAD TO NORTH TARAWA TO WHICH
THERE IS FREQUENT LAUNCH AND CANOE TRAFFIC ACROSS THE
LAGOON. THE INFECTION WAS ALSO CARRIED TO ABEMAMA
BY CHILDREN RETURNING TO SCHOOL AND TO ABAIANG.
ON BOTH ISLANDS TRANSMISSION WAS LIMITED AND CONTROL
MEASURES HAVE PROVED EFFECTIVE. THERE HAVE BEEN NO
CASES ON ABEMAMA FOR OVER A WEEK.

CHOLERA WAS ALSO CONFIRMED ON TABITEUEAO ON 26
SEPTEMBER AND HAS BEEN TRACED TO A CONTACT WHO LEFT
TARAWA ON 5 SEPTEMBER. ALTHOUGH NO CASES HAVE BEEN
REPORTED FROM THE OTHER SIXTEEN INHABITED ISLANDS
IT IS POSSIBLE THAT TRANSMISSION TOOK PLACE BEFORE
INTERISLAND TRAVEL WAS RESTRICTED ON 9 SEPTEMBER AND OUT-
BREAKS ELSEWHERE MAY YET OCCUR. UP TO 27 SEP 529
CASES HAD BEEN ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL AND TREATED FOR
CHOLERA. THERE HAVE BEEN 18 DEATHS OF WHICH 9 WERE
OUTSIDE HOSPITAL.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES HAVE CONCENTRATED ON PUBLIC HEALTH
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 233475

EDUCATION AND TREATMENT OF WATER SUPPLIES. IN ADDITION
THE TOTAL POPULATION OF ISLANDS AT RISK HAVE BEEN
VACCINATED AND ALL CONTACTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN PROPHYLACTIC
TREATMENT WITH TETRACYCLINE. SHIPS CREWS AND OTHERS
ENGAGED IN INTER ISLAND TRADE AS WELL AS ALL PERSONS
LEAVING THE GILBERT ISLANDS ARE BEING VACCINATED AND
GIVEN RR PROPHYLACTIC TREATMENT.

GREAT ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE GILBERT
ISLANDS HEALTH AUTHORITIES BY THE WORLD HEALTH
ORGANISATION, THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION AND THE
GOVERNMENTS OF AUSTRALIA, FIJI, NAURU AND NEW ZEALAND.
WITH THE HELP OF PERSONNEL MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND TRANSPORT
FROM THESE SOURCES AND WITH THE WILLING COOPERATION
OF THE COMMUNITY, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS SUCCESSFULLY
CONTROLLED THE EPIDEMIC.

EVERY EFFORT IS NOW BEING MADE TO PREVENT CHOLERA
FROM BECOMING ENDEMIC IN THE GILBERT ISLANDS. THE
GOVERNMENT PLEDGES ITS COMMITMENT TO THIS CAUSE WHICH
IS IN THE INTEREST NOT ONLY OF THE GILBERT ISLANDS
BUT OF THE REGION. THE GOVERNMENT IS CONFIDENT THAT

IT CAN DEPEND UPON THE COOPERATION OF NEIGHBOURING
GOVERNMENTS AND THE GUIDANCE OF WHO IN THE DIFFICULT
AND LENGTHY TASK AHEAD STATEMENT ENDS. END QUOTE VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHOLERA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE233475
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WBODDE:PAP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770353-1137
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770911/aaaaajhj.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8041aa3a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1093297
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATEMENT BY GOVERNMENT OF GILBERT ISLANDS CONCERNING CHOLERA
TAGS: CASC, AMED
To: HICOMTERPACIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8041aa3a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009